



2017 SAS Championship Advance Media Information

Contact:

Dave Senko
904-728-1307 (C)
daves@pgatourhq.com

Event: SAS Championship, the 23rd of 26 Charles Schwab Cup events.

Dates: October 9-15, 2017

Site: Prestonwood Country Club, Cary, North Carolina

Par: 36-36—72 **Yards:** 7,082

Course Designer: Tom Jackson (1992)

Format: 78 players, 54 holes of stroke play, no cut

Purse: \$2,100,000 (\$315,000 to the champion)

2016 Champion: **Doug Garwood** (65-71-64—200/-16); defeated Bernhard Langer by four strokes.

Television: The event will be televised live all three days on GOLF CHANNEL from 2:30-5:00 p.m. All times local.

The 2017 Schedule: The 17th annual SAS Championship is the 23rd of 26 official events in 2017, a season that concludes with the Charles Schwab Cup Championship from November 9-12 at Phoenix Country Club in Phoenix, AZ.

About PGA TOUR Champions: PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of golf's most recognizable and accomplished players, age 50 and older, including 35 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour's mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. In 2017, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 26 tournaments in 18 states, Japan, Wales and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$55 million. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long champion. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air live, tape-delayed or in a highlights-package format in excess of 190 countries and territories, reaching more than 330 million potential households. The PGA TOUR's web site is PGATOUR.COM, the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Follow PGA TOUR Champions at [facebook.com/PGATOURChampions](https://www.facebook.com/PGATOURChampions), on Twitter @Champions TOUR and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

2016 Recap: Riding a hot putter in the final round, **Doug Garwood** birdied seven of his first 10 holes, including a 6-under-par 30 on the front nine, to pull away for a four-stroke victory over **Bernhard Langer** and his first win on PGA TOUR Champions. Trailing Langer, the 36-hole leader by two strokes, Garwood needed just 10 putts on the front nine to open a lead he would never relinquish. The victory came in his 44th career Tour start.

Title Sponsor: SAS is the leader in analytics. Through innovative analytics, business intelligence and data management software and services, SAS helps customers at more than 83,000 sites make better decisions faster. Since 1976, SAS has been giving customers around the world THE POWER TO KNOW®.

YMCA of the Triangle is Again Host Charity: Seven days of golf and community events = 52 weeks of community impact. The host charity of the SAS Championship is the YMCA of the Triangle and since its inception, the event has raised over \$4 million for area youth educational initiatives. Since the SAS Championship began supporting the YMCA of the Triangle's academic programs six years ago, well over 7,000 students have taken part in the programs. The Tournament annually contributes the single-largest donation to the Y Learning Program.

SAS CHAMPIONSHIP STORYLINES...

Looking Ahead to the 2017 Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs: In 2016, Bernhard Langer won the inaugural Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs and won the Charles Schwab Cup for the third year in a row, and fourth time overall. This year's three-tournament playoff series begins in Richmond, Virginia, before heading west to Thousand Oaks, California, and concluding in Phoenix.

October 16-22 | Dominion Energy Charity Classic (The Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia)

October 23-29 | PowerShares QQQ Championship (Sherwood Country Club, Thousand Oaks, California)

November 6-12 | Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Phoenix Country Club, Phoenix, Arizona)

At the start of the playoffs, each player's regular-season money total will become the equivalent number of points (e.g.\$330,000 equals 330,000 points). During the first two playoff events, each dollar earned is worth two points, and those points will be added to a player's regular-season point total. After the Dominion Energy Charity Classic, the top 54 players will advance, and after the PowerShares QQQ Championship, the top 36 players will qualify for the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

Points will be reset for the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, similar to the reset in the FedExCup Playoffs before the TOUR Championship. Any of the top-five players will win the Charles Schwab Cup with a victory in the season finale, and all 36 players are mathematically capable of winning the Charles Schwab Cup, depending on his performance and the results of the rest of the field.

"Wildcard Weekend" at SAS Championship Highlights Charles Schwab Cup Race: The SAS Championship is the final week players can qualify for the upcoming Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs which will begin October 16-22 at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic in Richmond, Virginia. "Wildcard Weekend" allows for one player, who finishes in the top 10, but is outside the top 72 on the season-long money list after the event, to advance to the event at The Country Club of Virginia where a points system will commence. However, should the 72nd player at the conclusion of the event also top 10, the higher finisher would get priority.

Last Chance for Berth in Richmond: With this being the final full-field event prior to the start of the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs next week in Richmond, below is where several players (Nos. 66-78) stand on the current Charles Schwab Cup money list as the regular season ends.

Name	Rank	Current Earnings	Difference/72 nd Place
Bob Tway	66 th	\$164,817	+\$16,937/Not Entered
Loren Roberts	67 th	\$164,122	+\$16,242
Michael Bradley	68 th	\$163,486	+\$15,606
Skip Kendall	69 th	\$158,049	+\$10,169
Jim Carter	70 th	\$155,876	+\$7,996
Russ Cochran	71 st	\$149,246	+\$1,366
<u>Bart Bryant</u>	<u>72nd</u>	<u>\$147,880</u>	-----
Jose Maria Olazabal	73 rd	\$138,343	Not Entered
Mark O'Meara	74 th	\$134,067	Not Entered
Ian Woosnam	75 th	\$126,939	Not Entered
Gary Hallberg	76 th	\$124,137	-\$23,743
Miguel Angel Martin	77 th	\$121,671	Not Entered
Kent Jones	78 th	\$115,435	Not Entered

Where the Charles Schwab Cup Race Stands: Heading into this week's final event before the start of the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs, Bernhard Langer continues to lead the season-long race with \$2,973,835 followed by Scott McCarron with \$2,425,445, a margin of \$548,930. Kevin Sutherland is third with \$1,459,009, Kenny Perry is fourth with \$1,448,270 and Miguel Angel Jimenez fifth with \$1,337,278.

Langer is Closing in on Record: With \$2,973,835 in earnings so far in 2017, Bernhard Langer is closing in on his record for the most money earned in a PGA TOUR Champions season -- \$3,074,189 in 2014. A victory by Langer in the SAS Championship would allow him to break the record but he still needs to make \$100,355 to surpass the current mark. Langer is one of two players to have surpassed the \$3 million mark in season earnings. He also did it in 2016 with \$3,016,959. Hale Irwin was the other, earning \$3,028,304 during the 2002 campaign.

The 2017 SAS Championship Field: The SAS Championship is again expected to have a top-notch field competing for the \$2.1 million purse. Below is a breakdown of the field.

59 players in the field won 366 PGA TOUR titles

52 players in the field won 286 PGA TOUR Champions victories

15 players have won major titles on the PGA TOUR

19 players have won major titles on PGA TOUR Champions

There are seven World Golf Hall of Famers – Faldo, Langer, Kite, Irwin, Singh, Montgomerie and Nelson.

Players representing 11 different countries are in the field – US, Canada, Sweden, Wales, Scotland, Mexico, England, South Africa, Fiji, Paraguay and Germany.

Former PGA TOUR Winners Highlight First Timers: A host of former winners on the PGA TOUR are among the several new faces making their debuts at this year's SAS Championship. The former winners include Steve Flesch, David Toms, Bob Estes, John Daly and Jerry Kelly. In addition, long-time European Tour competitor Phillip Price will compete for the first time.

Kelly is Tour's Hottest Player: After going winless in his first 12 starts since joining PGA TOUR Champions, Jerry Kelly has been the hottest player on PGA TOUR Champions since his first career win last month at the Boeing Classic, which came in his 13th start. Following that victory near Seattle, he was T6 at the Shaw Charity Classic, added a second win at the Pacific Links Bear Mountain Championship and was second at the PURE Insurance Championship on September 24th. Kelly set a record at the Pebble Beach event when he recorded his 14th consecutive round in the 60s on Sunday, breaking Hale Irwin's mark set in 1999. In those 14 rounds, he is a combined 72-under-par. He's averaged \$212,575 in his last four starts.

Success for Players Age 56+ in 2017: So far in 2017, an impressive nine of 22 tournament wins have been posted by players aged 56 and older. Coming into this season, nearly 85 percent of tournament winners in PGA TOUR Champions history have been between the ages of 50-55. The players aged 56 and older with

victories this year include Bernhard Langer (5 wins), Fred Couples (2 wins), Kenny Perry and Tom Lehman. Ironically, Jerry Kelly became the first 50-year-old winner earlier this year at the Boeing Classic.

SAS CHAMPIONSHIP NOTES...

A Look at Prestonwood Country Club: Prestonwood Country Club has now hosted a PGA TOUR Champions event since 2001. Prior to that, the course hosted a Web.com Tour event from 1994-1997 before it moved to Raleigh Country Club. Prestonwood Country Club ranked 16th among the 26 courses on 2016 PGA TOUR Champions with an average score of 71.679 (-.321) compared to 9th among 24 courses in 2015 at 72.589 (+.589). Hole No. 14, a par-4, ranked as the most-difficult in 2016, with an average score of 4.208 (+.208). No. 4 was the easiest, yielding 2 eagles and 78 birdies for the event. The par-5 averaged 4.713 (-.287).

Winning in Their Debut: In the history of PGA TOUR Champions there have only been 18 players who have won in their first starts on the circuit. The SAS Championship has the distinction of being the only non-major championship where that rare feat has happened more than once. In 2007, Mark Wiebe made his first start on the PGA TOUR Champions after receiving a sponsor exemption into the event and he defeated Dana Quigley by three strokes at Prestonwood for his first victory on Tour. In 2009, Tom Pernice, Jr. won his first PGA TOUR Champions event in his initial start, edging David Frost and Nick Price by one stroke. The only other championship where there have been multiple first-time winners in their PGA TOUR Champions debuts was at the Senior PGA Championship. In 1980, Arnold Palmer won in his first start at Turnberry Isle Country Club in North Miami, Fla. Michael Allen followed Palmer in 2009, winning the Senior PGA Championship at Canterbury Golf Club near Cleveland in his first appearance on the circuit.

How the Leaders Have Fared: In the 16-year history of the SAS Championship, nine second-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win the event (Bruce Lietzke in 2001, Craig Stadler in 2004, Tom Jenkins in 2006, Mark Wiebe in 2007, Tom Pernice, Jr. in 2009, Kenny Perry in 2011, Russ Cochran in 2010 and 2013 and Kirk Triplett in 2014). First-round leaders/co-leaders have won this event seven times in the previous 16 years at Prestonwood, including five of the last 10 times. First-round leaders did not win in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015.

A Good One for First-Timers: The SAS Championship has been a good one for first-time winners. Five players posted their first PGA TOUR Champions victory here at Prestonwood CC. The five are -- D.A. Weibring (2003), Mark Wiebe (2007), Tom Pernice, Jr. (2009), Kenny Perry (2011), Doug Garwood (2016).

Charting the Champs: The last 10 winners of the SAS Championship have averaged 16.6 birdies over 54 holes and have averaged only 3.5 bogeys en route to victory. Hale Irwin (2005) and Kenny Perry (2011) are the only SAS Championship winners to make two eagles. Tom Pernice, Jr. made just one bogey when he won in 2009, the fewest by a winner in tournament history. Bruce Lietzke (2002), Perry (2011), Kirk Triplett (2014) and Doug Garwood (2016) are the only winners to have survived a double bogey en route to victory. The winner of this event has come from the final grouping 11 times in 16 years, including 10 of the last 12 years. The exceptions were Bernhard Langer (2013) when he came from four strokes back (T15) with a final-round 9-under-par 63 to win, and Tom Lehman in 2015 when he played his final four holes in 5-under to overtake second-round leader Joe Durant.

Oldest and Youngest: Mark Wiebe's victory in 2007 came just 10 days after he turned 50 and equaled the PGA TOUR Champions' record for youngest winner. Bobby Wadkins won the 2001 Lightpath Long Island Classic just 10 days after turning 50. Hale Irwin's 44th career PGA TOUR Champions title came at the 2005 SAS Championship, and at age 60 years, 3 months, 29 days, made him not only the 15th-oldest player at the time to win on the PGA TOUR Champions, but also the only player to win three times over the age of 60.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN FOR PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS...

Year	Winner	Driving Accuracy	Greens in Regulation	Putts	Sand Saves	Birdies/Bogeys
2001	Lietzke	33/45 (T18)	49/54 (1)	92 (T51)	1/3 (T47)	17/4
2002	Lietzke	33/45 (T31)	47/54 (T3)	87 (T9)	0/0	16/2
2003	Weibring	39/45 (T4)	41/54 (T14)	84 (T8)	2/4 (T28)	17/6
2004	Stadler	32/45 (T31)	38/54 (T11)	80 (T4)	0/1 (T71)	18/3
2005	Irwin	35/45 (T5)	43/54 (2)	86 (T26)	2/2 (T1)	13/4
2006	Jenkins	27/30 (T6)	33/36 (T1)	60 (T30)	0/1 (T61)	12/2
2007	Wiebe	38/45 (T3)	42/54 (T9)	81 (T4)	2/2 (T1)	20/2
2008	Romero	37/45 (T11)	41/54 (T21)	82 (2)	2/5 (T47)	20/5
2009	Pernice, Jr.	28/45 (T70)	39/54 (T19)	82 (T8)	2/2 (T1)	12/1
2010	Cochran	32/45 (T12)	38/54 (T14)	81 (T1)	2/3 (T18)	10/4
2011	Perry	32/45 (T41)	42/54 (T2)	86 (T16)	4/5 (T6)	17/6
2012	Langer	39/45 (T3)	44/54 (T7)	86 (T10)	1 / 2 (T47)	17/4
2013	Cochran	38/45 (T2)	45/54 (5)	85 (T9)	1/1	19/4
2014	Triplett	38/45 (4)	44/54 (T5)	87 (T17)	0/1	19/5
2015	Lehman	34/45 (T11)	41/54 (T6)	86 (T22)	2/2	12/2
2016	Garwood	26/42 (T44)	42/54 (T5)	80 (T2)	2/2	20/2

Kendall Was a Winner Here: When the Web.com Tour played the 1994 NIKE Carolina Classic here at Prestonwood CC, Skip Kendall emerged with a two-stroke victory over Pat Bates. Kendall came from three strokes back on Sunday for his win. One year later, David Toms finished T3 at the event, while Kendall was T10 in 1996.

SAS Tidbits: There has never been a playoff in the previous 16 years at the SAS Championship...**Bernhard Langer's** T49 finish here in 2001 was his worst finish in 205 starts on PGA TOUR Champions...**Larry Nelson** holds the mark for most birdies in a SAS Championship. He had 21 in 2001. Nelson tied for sixth in the tournament that year...**Tom Kite's** 11 birdies in his final round of the 2003 event were the most in a single round and led to a tournament-record 61. It was Kite's career-low score on any Tour...**D.A. Weibring's** five-stroke, come-from-behind win in 2003 was the best in tournament history...**Keith Fergus** made double eagle at the par-5 17th hole in the second round in 2010, holing a 3-iron shot from 210 yards. It was at the time the 35th double eagle in PGA TOUR Champions history and led to a second-round 64...**Bernhard Langer** is the event's all-time money leader, with \$988,083...The only player to have teed it up in every SAS Championship is **Bob Gilder**...Ten of the tournaments have been decided by multiple strokes, including **Craig Stadler's** six-stroke victory in 2004, the largest winning margin in tournament history...The 2006 event was the only one shortened to 36 holes due to weather when heavy rains on Friday and Saturday deemed the course unplayable on Sunday. **Tom Jenkins** was declared the winner...When **Russ Cochran** birdied the last four holes to win the 2013 SAS Championship, it marked the first time a player had made four straight birdies to win an event since **Mark Calcavecchia** birdied the final three holes and then the first playoff hole to win the 2011 Boeing Classic. The other player in that playoff -- **Russ Cochran**...In 10 of 16 tournaments, a player named Tom has finished either first or second...Among the players in the field with North Carolina ties are former Wake Forest golfers **Gary Hallberg** and **Billy Andrade**. Others from the Tar Heel state are **Mike Goodes** (Browns Summit) and **Neal Lancaster** (Smithfield).